



ASSASSINATION GAME GAMBIT

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PART
3 OF 3

#19

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NICIEZA
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REMY LeBEAU HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE OUTSIDER. ORPHANED AT BIRTH, HE WAS ADOPTED BY THE LEGENDARY THIEVES GUILD OF NEW ORLEANS WHO OFTEN SHUNNED HIM BECAUSE OF HIS STRANGE BURNING EYES. EVENTUALLY, HE REALIZED HE IS A MUTANT -- GIFTED AT BIRTH WITH THE ABILITY TO CHARGE INANIMATE OBJECTS WITH BIOKINETIC ENERGY THAT IS EXPLOSIVELY RELEASED! HE'S CHARMING. HE'S DEADLY. STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE MOST MYSTERIOUS X-MAN OF ALL!

GAMBIT



WE'RE
ALIVE?!

IT WAS REMY. HE USED
HIS MUTANT POWERS --
HE BIOKINETICALLY
CHARGED TH' DEBRIS
AS IT FELL ON US --

-- CREATIN' A POCKET IN
TH' COLLAPSED BUILDING.

HE SAVED MY LIFE...
WHICH IS FUNNY, SINCE I
WAS HERE TO TAKE HIS.

NOT FUNNY, MAH-MAH,
BUT FUNNY PECULIAR.
STORY OF MY LIFE.

ASSASSINATION GAME PART 3 of 3

BEASTS & BURDEN

FABIAN NICIEZA writer VANICK PAQUETTE penciler SEAN PARSONS inks RS & COMICRAFT'S TROY PETERI letters
TOM SMITH colors MIKE MARTS editor BOB HARRAS editor in chief

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REMY LABEAU AN' BELLA DONNA BOUDREAUX, TH' WAY THEY WERE S'POSED TO BE: TOGETHER.

TWO KIDS WHO LOVED EACH OTHER -- WERE FORCED T' MARRY -- AN' THEN LOST THAT LOVE 'CAUSE OF FAMILY OBLIGATIONS.

SHAKESPEARE WOULD'VE BOUGHT INTO IT. ME, I LIVED IT.

THAT IS WHY I BROUGHT TH' ASSASSINS GUILD T' NEW YORK CITY AFTER ALL.

I COULD KILL HIM RIGHT NOW...

... BUT HE LOOKS SO... FRAGILE... LIKE THE WAY HE DID TH' DAY WE WERE MARRIED.

BOTH OF US, ONE WEEK PAST OUR EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAYS --

-- TH' NAWLINS THIEVES AN' ASSASSINS GUILD UNITED FOR TH' FIRST TIME IN CENTURIES...

I COULD KILL HIM RIGHT NOW IF I WANTED TO. THIRTY-TWO DIFFERENT WAYS.

... ALL 'CAUSE OF US -- ALL 'CAUSE WE AGREED T' TH' ARRANGED MARRIAGE.

WE DID LOVE EACH OTHER... HAD EVER SINCE THE DAY WE LOCKED EYES.

BUT NEITHER ONE OF US WOULD'VE CHOSEN TO GET MARRIED SO YOUNG --

-- MUCH LESS WITH 60 MUCH RESPONSIBILITY INVOLVED.

RESPONSIBILITY. SOMETHIN' THAT REMY ALWAYS AVOIDED -- NO MATTER HOW IT FOLLOWED HIM AROUND LIKE A SHADOW...

BELP
HEY... GUESS IT WORKED, REM?



WE'RE TRAPPED, AREN' WE?

YUP.

LOW ON AIR?

Mm-hmm.

I MIGHT BE ABLE T' BLAST US OUT OF HERE...

BUT --?



"BUT I COULD BLOW US UP IN TH' PROCESS!"

WE BOTH AGREE T' WAIT ON THAT OPTION.

EVEN AS WE SPEAK, TH' TWO GUILDS ARE ABOVE US --

-- AN' IF THEY'RE NOT TRYIN' T' KILL EACH OTHER --

-- THEN MAYBE THEY'RE WORKIN' TOGETHER T' DIG US OUT!

DIS DOES NOT LOOK GOOD, THEOREN.



I KNOW, MERCY -- BUT WE KEEP TRYIN' -- RIGHT, GRIS GRISP?

I AGREED TO A TRUCE WITH THE THIEVES, MARCEAUX -- FOR NOW.

FAIR ENOUGH, IN THAT CASE --



-- HOW 'BOUT IF SINGER GOES BACK TO OUR THIEVES' SAFEHOUSE --

"-- TO GET TANTE
MATTIE'S HELP, WE
COULD USE HER
EMPATHIC MAGICKS."



REMY AN'
BEL'RE STILL
ALIVE, CHIL' -- I
CAN FEEL 'EM...
TOGETHER...

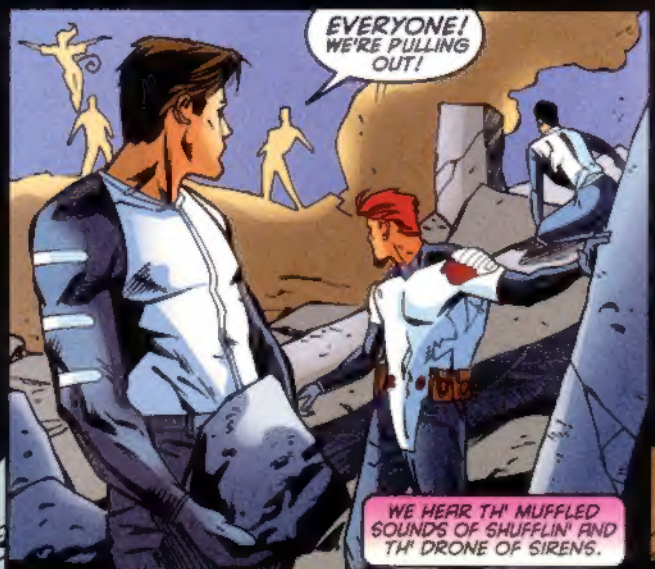


... BUT TANTE'S
NOT SURE OF DEIR
CONDITION.

UNDERSTOOD,
SINGER.

Uh-oh,
HEAR DE SIRENS,
MARCEAUX?

WE WON'T
HAVE ENOUGH
TIME TO FIND
THEM.



EVERYONE!
WE'RE PULLING
OUT!

WE HEAR TH' MUFFLED
SOUNDS OF SHUFFLIN' AND
TH' DRONE OF SIRENS.

THEY'RE LEAVIN'. THEY
HAVE TO. CAN'T LET TH'
POLICE CATCH THEM.

THIEVES MEMBERS EMIL LAPIN,
MERCY LEBEAU, ZOE ISHIHARA,
CLAUDE POTIER AN' THEOREN
MARCEAUX ARE ALL WANTED
CRIMINALS --

-- IN JUST AS MANY
STATES AS ASSASSINS
GRIS GRIS, FIFOLET,
QUESTA AN' SINGER ARE!

THE GUILD LIFE.
WELCOME TO IT.

MY WHOLE LIFE SPENT
DENYIN' WHAT MIGHT
LIE AHEAD --

-- 'CAUSE I WAS TOO
BUSY LOOKIN' OVER MY
SHOULDER AT WHAT SIN
MIGHT BE CATCHIN' UP
TO ME FROM BEHIND.



INTERLUDE 1

THE CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL OF THE NEW SON.

OOOMPH!

AS USUAL, THE EVER-MYSTERIOUS WOULD-BE WORLD-SCULPTOR YANKS ME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A "GOT A MINUTE?"

WHAT NOW? DID NEW SON BRING ME HERE JUST TO SEE QUIET BILL USING HIS MUTANT POWERS TO LOOK INTO ALTERNATE REALITIES?

MS. GAVIN --
Whm... I MEAN,
MISTER... I
THINK --

IT GETS
CONFUSING,
HUEY, I KNOW.
JUST CALL ME
COURIER.

OKAY --
Whm -- NEW SON'S BEEN
RIDIN' QUIET BILL *AWFUL*
HARD -- MAKIN' HIM OPEN
DOORWAYS FOR *HOURS*
WITHOUT A REST...

WELL,
MAYBE I
CAN FIND OUT
WHY --

AND
THEN WHAT,
JACOB?

SHOULD YOU
DISAGREE WITH
MY ADMITTEDLY
BRUSQUE TREATMENT
OF BILL...

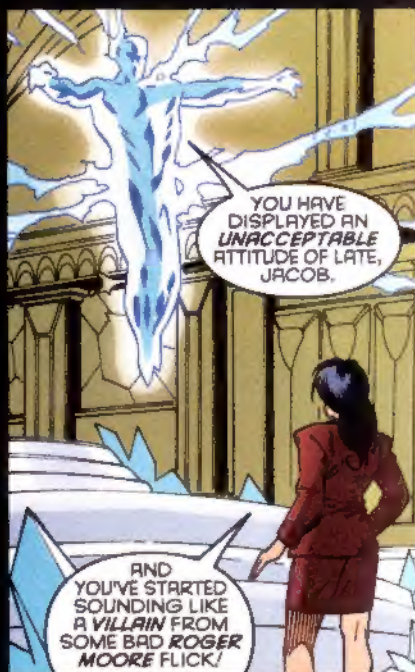


... WHAT
WILL YOU THEN
DO ABOUT
IT?

WHEN WILL
YOU ACCEPT
THAT THIS PLACE,
YOUR VERY BREATH,
WHAT YOU *HAVE*
DONE, WHAT YOU
WILL DO --

-- ARE ALL
BUT MOMENTS
IN TIME -- ALL
MOMENTS WHICH
I HOLD IN THE
PALM OF MY
HAND!

WELL, THEN
MAYBE YOU CAN HIT
THE *DIMMER* ON THIS
PARTICULAR "MOMENT IN
TIME"? BILL'S IN PAIN!



YOU HAVE
DISPLAYED AN
UNACCEPTABLE
ATTITUDE OF LATE,
JACOB.

AND
YOU'VE STARTED
SOUNDING LIKE
A VILLAIN FROM
SOME BAD ROGER
MOORE FLICK!



NOT TO EVEN MENTION
THIS INSANE *SEARCH*
ENGINE YOU HAVE
HOOKED UP FOR
FINDING ALTERNATE
REALITIES --

-- OR THE
FACT THAT YOU
SANCTIONED
GAMBIT'S
MURDER!



YOU... **DISAGREE**...
WITH MY ACTIONS,
JACOB?



Y--YES.

BUT
WILL YOU DO
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT?



THAT'S
WHAT I
THOUGHT...

WHILE IN
NYC...

GRIS GRIS, THIS
IS YOUR FAULT FOR
HAVING SO MANY
SUBCONTRACTS
TO KILL REMY!

THE ASSASSINS
GUILD NEVER
SUBCONTRACTS!

SOMEONE
ELSE HIRED THESE
FOOLS!

BOTH THE THIEVES AND
THE ASSASSINS -- REMY'S
AND MY PEOPLE -- MOVED
THREE BLOCKS AWAY FROM
THE COLLAPSED BUILDING.

THEY KNEW THE BUILDING
HAD FALLEN AS A RESULT
OF AN ATTACK BY THE
X-CUTIONER. •

THEY KNEW THAT OTHER
COSTUMED ASSASSINS HAD
BEEN CONTRACTED TO
ASSASSINATE REMY. ••

WHAT THEY HADN'T
KNOWN WAS THAT
THEY'D SHOW UP AGAIN.

ZARAN,
THE WEAPONS
MASTER.

BATROC,
THE LEAPER.

CROSSBONES,
THE... BRUISER.

ALL HIGHLY RESPECTED
PROFESSIONALS. ALL WITH THE
POTENTIAL FOR UGLINESS.

WHICH WOULD BE FINE FOR THE
ASSASSINS, BUT THEOREN
MARCEAUX REFUSES TO PUT
THE THIEVES GUILD IN JEOPARDY
WITH THE SUPERHUMAN
MERCENARY COMMUNITY.

ONE ISSUE
AGO.

TWO ISSUES
AGO.
-- MIKE-AGO



PACK
MANUEVER
FIVE -- TRIGGER
NOW!

WHU --?

'SCUZE ME,
MUSCLÉS, BUT
OUR SECOND-IN-
COMMAND JUST
BARKED!



THE
THIEVES ARE
RUNNIN'
AWAY?

MARCEAUX... YOU
COWARD...



OUR AGREEMENT
STANDS, MOM,
CROSSBONES?

YEAH,
BATROC. YOU
HELP ME SCORE
THE MILLION BUCKS
ON **GAMBIT** AND I'LL
LET YOU DWEBBS
LIVE -- WHY?

I BELIEVE
THEY SCATTER TO
CREATE BETTER ODDS
OF FINDING **LEBEAU**...

... WHICH WOULD
DICTATE THAT **WE**
SEPARATE AS WELL!

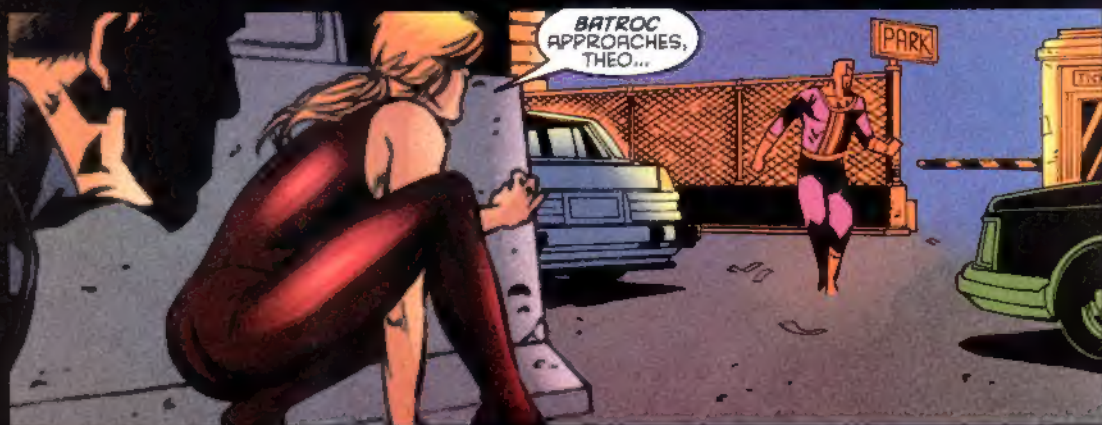


FINE --
GO -- I'LL TAKE
CARE OF THE
ASSASSINS...



EMIL --
DID IT
WORK?

OH, **CLAUDE**...
ONE OF THEM
APPROACHES --
IT'S **ZARAN**...



"-- THAT THE ASSASSINS
ARE AS SUCCESSFUL
HANDLING CROSSBONES!"

OH, C'MON!
YOU TH'NK MAKIN'
UP IMAGES OF
CAPTAIN AMERICA
S GONNA SCARE
ME?

THEN
AGAIN...

... SOMETHIN'
IS MAKIN' ME
FEEL LIKE I'M
ABOUT TO
BARF...

THWUMPH

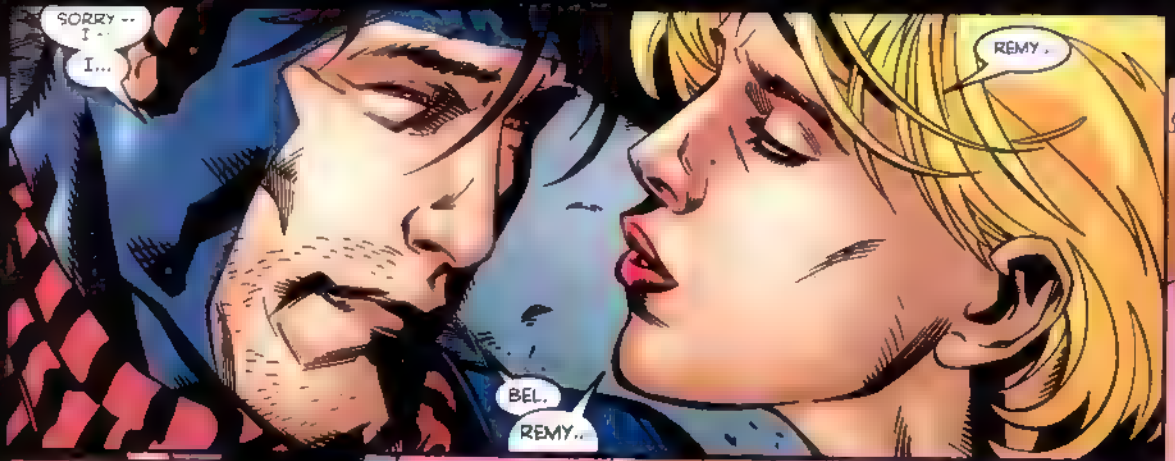
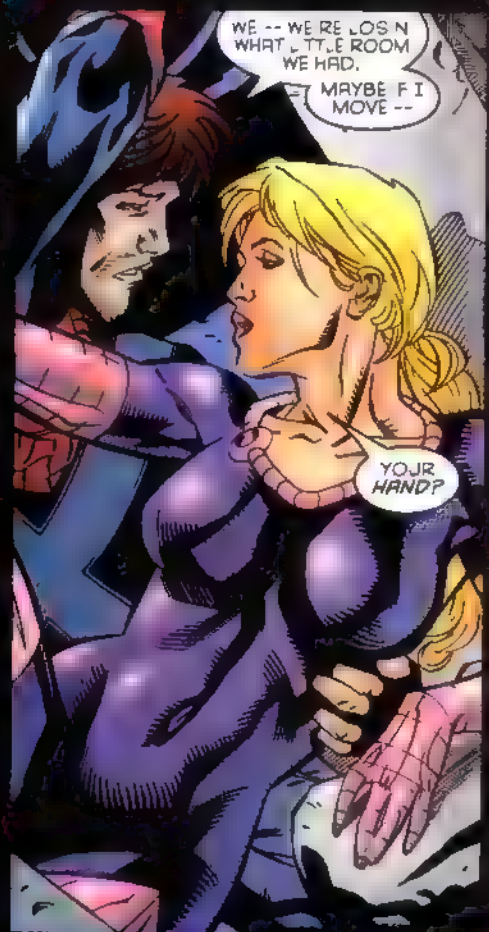
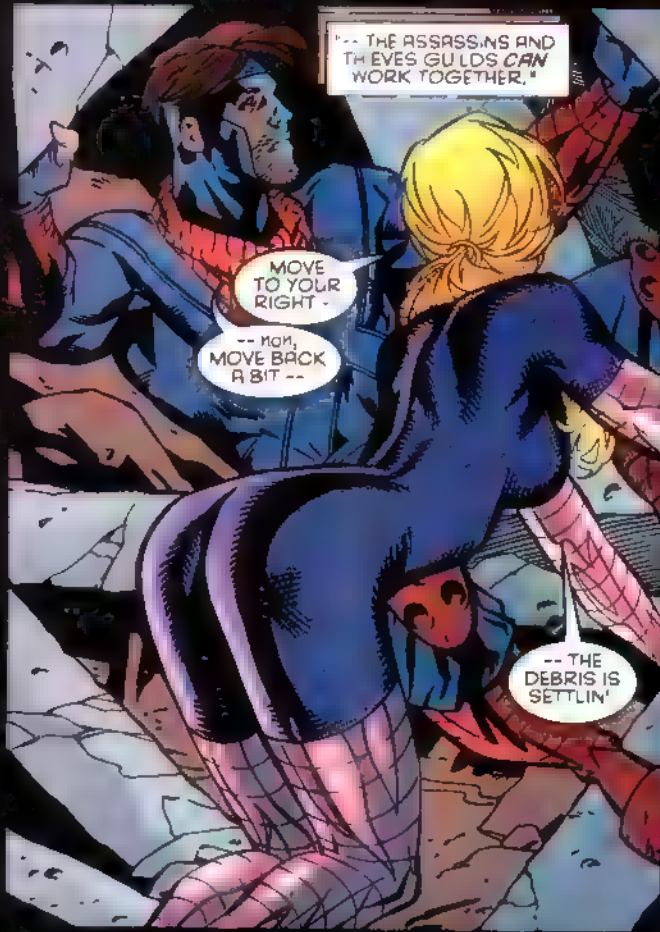
OKAY, MAYBE THE
IMAGES I PULLED
FROM HIS MIND DIDN'T
WORK ON HIM LIKE
THEY DID ON
BULLSEYE --

BUT IT
SERVED TO DISTRACT
CROSSBONES, FIFOLET,
WHILE MY MAGICKS
DISORIENTED HIM. STILL
THAT DOESN'T ANSWER
THE QUESTION --

WHO DROPPED
THE LOAD ON HIM?
THAT WOULD
BE US.

SO
YOU WEREN'T
RUNNIN'
AWAY?

NOPE. WE
MIGHT HAVE
DIFFERENT METHODS...
BUT MAYBE -- JUST
MAYBE --



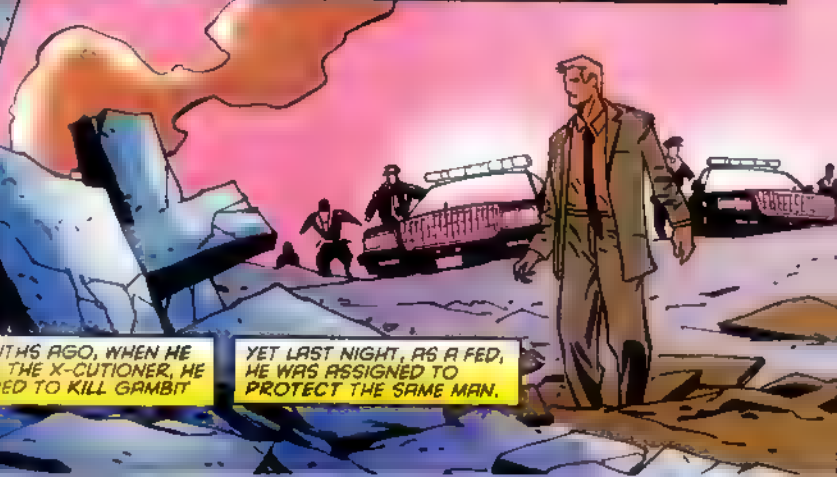
"BEL... WHY DID YOU WANNA KILL ME?"

TALK ABOUT SPOILIN' TH' MOOD!

FEDERAL AGENT CARL DENTI HAS A CONFLICT.

MONTHS AGO, WHEN HE WAS THE X-CUTIONER, HE TRIED TO KILL GAMBIT

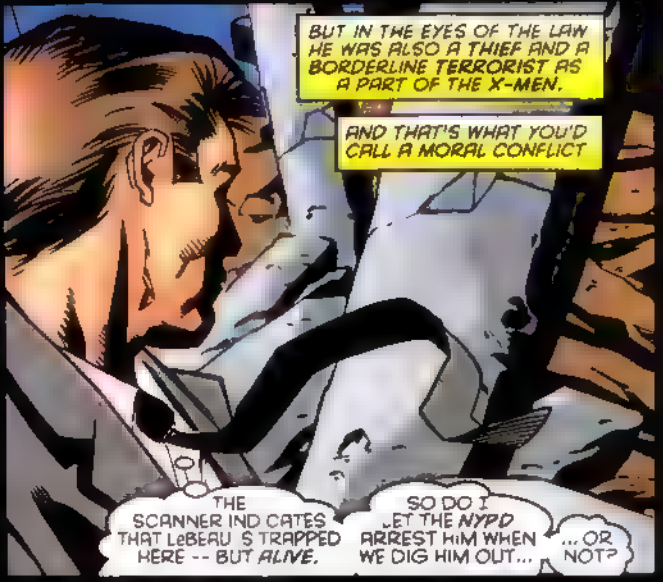
YET LAST NIGHT, AS A FED, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO PROTECT THE SAME MAN.





WHILE DOING SO, HE REALIZED HIS GROWING SUSPICIONS ABOUT GAMBIT WERE TRUE...

... THAT LEBEAU WAS A MAN OF HONOR, PRINCIPLE AND COURAGE.



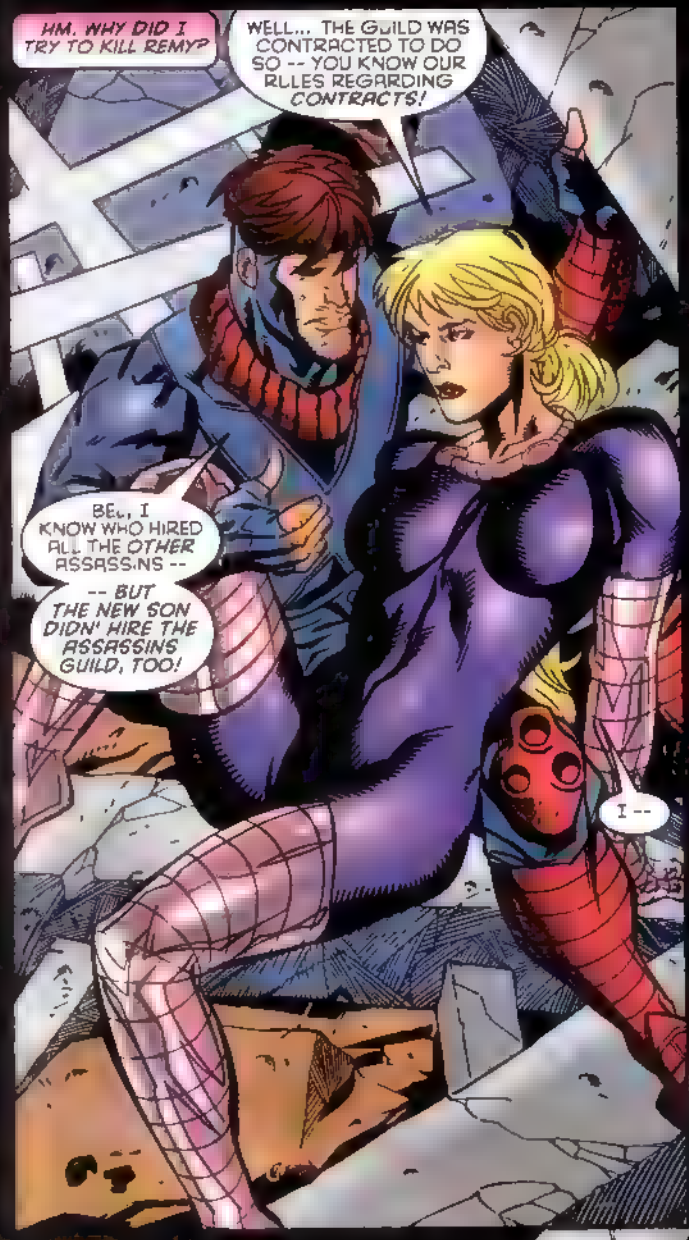
BUT IN THE EYES OF THE LAW HE WAS ALSO A THIEF AND A BORDERLINE TERRORIST AS A PART OF THE X-MEN.

AND THAT'S WHAT YOU'D CALL A MORAL CONFLICT

THE SCANNER IND CATES THAT LEBEAU'S TRAPPED HERE -- BUT ALIVE.

SO DO I LET THE NYPD ARREST HIM WHEN WE DIG HIM OUT...

... OR NOT?



HM. WHY DID I TRY TO KILL REMYP?

WELL... THE GUILD WAS CONTRACTED TO DO SO -- YOU KNOW OUR RULES REGARDING CONTRACTS!

BEL, I KNOW WHO HIRED ALL THE OTHER ASSASSINS --

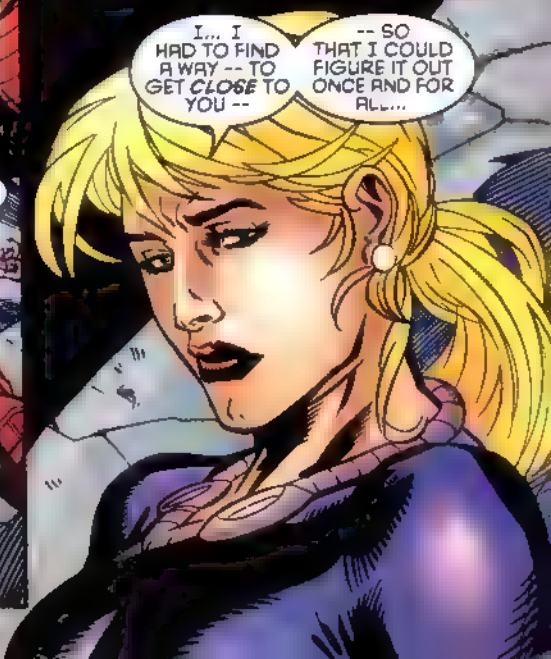
-- BUT THE NEW SON DIDN' HIRE THE ASSASSINS GUILD, TOO!

I --



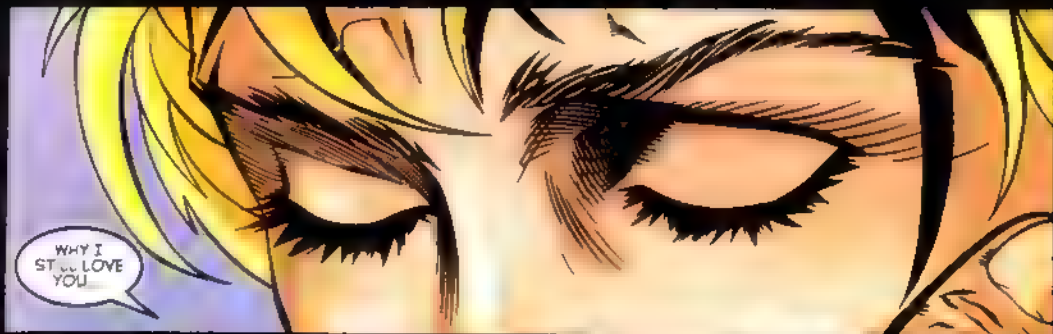
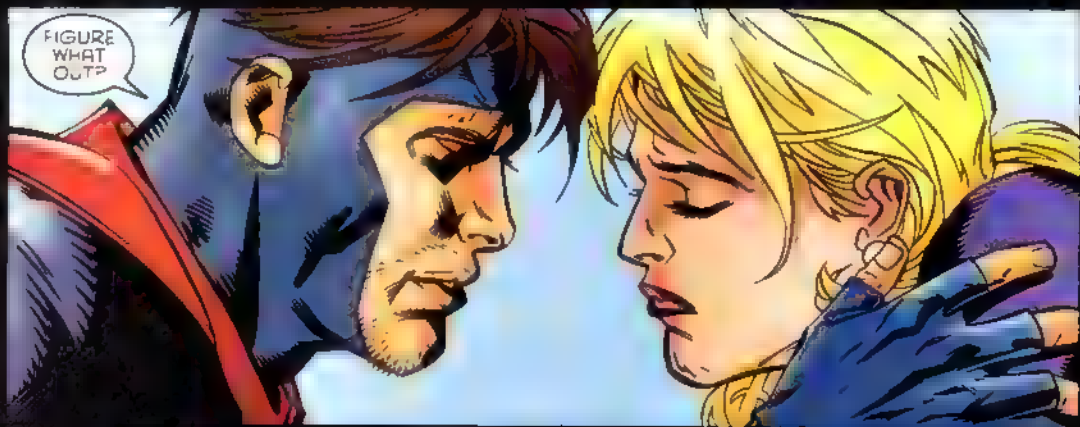
DON' LIE, BEL -- I BEEN ABLE T TELL WHEN YOU'RE LYIN' SINCE YOU WERE TEN YEARS OLD!

WHY?!



I... I HAD TO FIND A WAY -- TO GET CLOSE TO YOU --

-- SO THAT I COULD FIGURE IT OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL...





SCLZE ME, DARLIN', M'ND FINDIN' SOME GRAPES YOU CAN FEED ME?

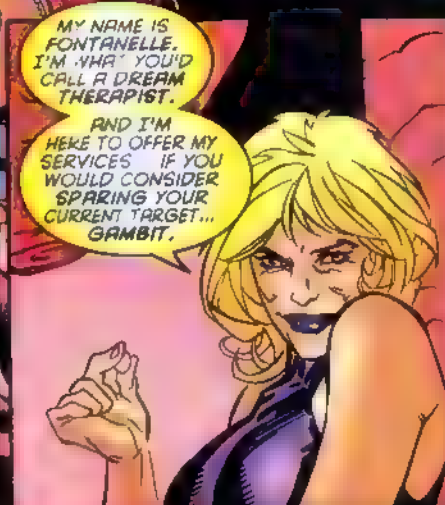
OH, C'MON, BULLSEYE, THIS IS TO O' OBVIOUS EVEN BY YOUR STANDARDS!



HEY, WHO'S N MY DREAM?

MY NAME IS FONTANELLE. I'M 'VHA' YOU'D CALL A DREAM THERAPIST.

AND I'M HERE TO OFFER MY SERVICES IF YOU WOULD CONSIDER SPARING YOUR CURRENT TARGET... GAMBIT.



SPEAKIN OF WH CH -- WHAT AM I DOIN' DREAMIN'?

I GOT A CONTRACT KILL T' FINSH UP!

ST TIGHT, GALS, I'LL BE BACK IN A FLASH -- I GOT TIL DAWN TO MAKE SURE LEBEAU IS ICED!

YEAH, THAT'S WHEN THE CONTRACT EXPIRES.

DAWN?

IN THAT CASE... YOU CAN'T GET ME OUT OF YOUR TWISTED MIND FAST ENOUGH!

OH, AND IF YOU WERE WORRIED THAT THE ASSASSIN'S GUILD MESSIN' WITH YOUR SENSES DID ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE --

-- DON'T BE. YOU'RE STILL THE SAME COLD-BLOODED MURDERER YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN.



THERE. I SAID IT

THE WORDS HANG IN THE AIR LIKE DUST.

EASY TO SEE, HARD TO HOLD ON TO.

I THOUGHT I HATED HIM. WANTED TO HATE HIM.

I DIED. I LIVED AGAIN, HAD MY MEMORIES STOLEN, WORKED TO GET THEM BACK AGAIN, LOST MY BROTHER, MY FATHER, MY HOPE...

...ALL BECAUSE OF HIM...

... I THOUGHT

BUT SEEN' HIM AGAIN... THOSE EYES... THAT CON MAN CHARM COVERIN' UP A SOFT LITTLE BOY'S INNOCENCE ..

... I NEVER REALLY BLAMED HIM IN MY HEART AN' SOUL

... JUST IN A MIND THAT HAD BEEN TOO TWISTED 'ROUND FOR TOO LONG

I - I DON KNOW IF I FEE. THAT WAY, BEL -- I DID BUT MAYBE NOT RIGHT NOW...

I KNOW AN IT'S OKAY

I MEAN, WE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH -- AN' ROGUE AN --

I SAID IT'S OKAY, REMY. I MEANT T. I UNDERSTAND...

I WOULD DISTRACT LEPARLEAU WHILE REMY STOLE THE CANDY.

YEARS LATER, AFTER HE SOLD TH' STORE, I FOUND OUT THAT HE ALWAYS KNEW WHAT WE WERE DOIN' --

-- I THOUGHT MAYBE HE JUS' COULDN' RESIST THE CUTE LITTLE SMILE OF AN ASSASSIN-IN-TRAININ'...

... BUT IN TRUTH, HE
WAS JU'S AFRAID...
AFRAID OF CROSSIN'
THE GUILDS.

EVEN TH' INNOCENCE
OF SHOPLIFTIN' WAS
DENIED US

EVEN ON OUR WEDDING
DAY -- AS FORCED AS IT
WAS -- I STILL HAD HOPE...

... THAT MAYBE WE
COULD BE... NORMAL.

LISTEN T' HOW
TWISTED THAT
SOUNDS! GUILD
LIFE YOU'RE
WELCOME TO IT

LET'S
TRY GOIN'
TH'S WAY

WONDER IF THAT'S
WHAT ROGUE WAS
THINKIN' WHEN SHE
STOLE MY MEMORIES
OF REMY -- THE HOPES
I HAD FOR US

... CAN'T BLAME HER NOW,
WANTIN' A TASTE OF
SOMETHIN' NORMAL
FOR HERSELF

I MEAN, HOW COULD
I? WHEN HERE I AM
CONNIN' MY OWN GUILD --

-- INTO BELIEVIN' WE HAD A
CONTRACT ON REMY, JU'S!
SO I COULD FIND A WAY
T' GET CLOSER TO HIM!

AND JU'S LIKE
THAT... HE
KNOWS...

THIS IS ME BELIEVIN' I'M
CLOSER T' NORMAL NOW
LOOK IN TH' MIRROR, GIRL,
YOU'RE MESS'D UP...

... FOR
LIFE

LITTLE
MORE BREATHIN'
ROOM

YUP.

IT'S
OKAY,
BEL --



S NOT LIKE ANY
OF US WERE GIVEN
A HANDBOOK ON
HOW TO HAVE A
NORMAL LIFE,
Y'KNOW...?

I KNOW.
IT'S JJS -- I
SEE IT -- RIGHT
IN FRONT OF ME --
CLOSE ENOUGH
T' GRAB --

SEE
WHAT?

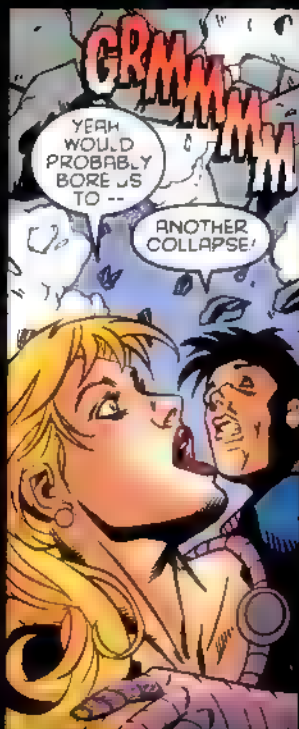
-- SOMETHIN
REAL -- SOMETHIN --
I DON' KNOW --
SANE...
IT SOUNDS
CRAZY...



NO --
NO, IT
DOESN

BUT IT'S
LIKE WE GET
T' WATCH HOW
NORMAL PEOP'E
LIVE THROUGH
A WINDOW,
NOP

BUT
PART OF US
DOESN' WANT TO --
COULDN' LIVE
INS DE THAT HOUSE



CRMM
MM

YEAH
WOULD
PROBABLY
BORE US
TO --

ANOTHER
COLLAPSE!



STAY
CLOSE,
BEL --

-- AND
HOLD
TIGHT!

HIS FINGERS LIKE STEEL --
NOT FROM STRENGTH,
BUT FROM WILL.

I FEEL AN ELECTRIC
TINGLE COURSE
THROUGH ME -- HIS
POWERS --



-- HE'S TRYIN' T' HOLD
THEM BACK... OR HE
MIGHT INCINERATE
MY WHOLE ARM!

BUT I CAN FEEL THE
POWER IN HIM --
WILD AN' ANGRY --
LIKE IT WAS BEFORE
HE LEFT TH' GUILD.

HE LETS IT FLOW
AWAY FROM THE HAND
HOLDIN' MINE --

-- TOWARDS HIS
OTHER HAND --
REACHIN' OUT --
LIKE A SORCERER --

-- CREATIN' A KINETIC
DISCHARGE IN TH'
MOLECULES OF THE
RUBBLE BENEATH
AN' ABOVE US --

-- EVEN TH' AIR ITSELF --
DETONATIN' IT AS WE FALL.

WE SURVIVE TH' DROP,
BUT NOW WE'RE EVEN
DEEPER THAN BEFORE...

IT'S
BACK -- YOUR
POWER -- WAS
THIS XAVIER'S
TRAININ'?

HAH!
NOH... NOT
QUITE.®

I --
I DON' WANT
T' SEE YOU GO
DOWN THAT ROAD
AGAIN...

FOR DETAILS ON GAMBIT'S
EVILIZATION, SEE
GAMBIT #14. -- NIKK

SOME ROADS YOU
GOTTA WALK OVER
AGAIN, JUST T' GET
'EM RIGHT.

I LEAN FORWARD, HIS
LIPS REACHIN' TOWARDS
MINE, AN' THEN..

...THEY BRUSH
AGAINST MY
FOREHEAD

I GUESS HE
WASN' MEANIN'
ALL ROADS

BEL, WHEN WE GET OUTTA THIS, WE'RE BOTH GONNA TRY'N CARVE JUST A LITTLE SLICE OF NORMAL FOR OURSELVES --

-- AT THE VERY LEAST, WE CONTROL THE GUILDS NOW -- WE CAN STOP TH FIGHTIN' BETWEEN US --

-- AN' WE CAN DECIDE T' WORK TOGETHER T' LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT THE GUILD PROPHECIES AN' THE OLD KINGDOM...

... AN' MAYBE FND OUT 'BOUT WHAT'L GET JS ONE STEP CLOSER T' NORMAL.

OR AT LEAST ONE STEP FURTHER AWAY FROM INSANITY?

HE CATCHES THE SMILE. THIS TIME, I CATCH HIS LIPS.

I FEEL THAT ELECTRICITY AGAIN -- BUT IT'S MORE'N JUS' HIS POWERS --

-- POWERS WHICH ARE FLARIN' UP PRETTY GOOD RIGHT ABOUT NOW

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA TRY?

SOMETHIN' I WOULD'VE PREFERRED NOT TO DO -- BUT WE DON' HAVE MUCH CHOICE.

BEEN AFRAID T' REALLY LET LOOSE SINCE THE FULL EXTENT OF MY POWERS WERE RESTORED...

... AFRAID T' OPEN PANDORA'S BOX AGAIN...

... BUT PART OF ME HAS WANTED TO -- T' SEE IF I CAN CONTROL 'EM THIS TIME...

... SO HERE I AM WITH A CONVENIENT EXCUSE FOR THE CHOICE T' BE TAKEN OUTTA MY HANDS...



HE GLOWS LIKE A
SUN. I COVER MY
EYES. AND PRAY.

NOT FOR
ME.

FOR
HIM.

AN' MAYBE
ALSO... FOR
TH' WORLD...

FALL
BACK -- THE
BUILDING'S
GOING TO
BLOW!

HE STRAINS. IT
HURTS HIM. BUT IT
IS ALSO A RELEASE.

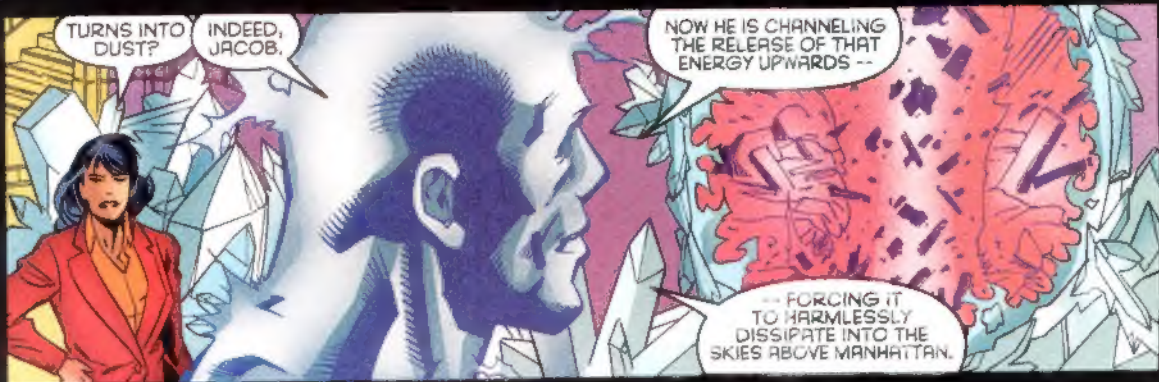
HE CONCENTRATES --
TOUCHIN' EVERY MOLECULE
ON EVERY PIECE OF RUBBLE
ABOVE US --

-- LIGHTING A MATCH TO
THEM ONE BY ONE --

-- NOT LETTIN' THAT
TRIGGER A CHAIN-
REACTION, LIKE HE
USUALLY DOES --

-- BUT DEALIN' WITH
EACH MOLECULE
ON IT'S OWN --

-- SO THAT EVERY PART
OF EVERY THING AROUND
US SIMPLY --



TURNS INTO
DUST?

INDEED,
JACOB.

NOW HE IS CHANNELING
THE RELEASE OF THAT
ENERGY UPWARDS --

-- FORCING IT
TO HARMLESSLY
DISSIPATE INTO THE
SKIES ABOVE MANHATTAN.



IT'S STRANGELY IRONIC. I INITIATED THIS ASSASSINATION GAME AS A WAY OF FORCING REMY TO ESCALATE THE USE OF HIS POWERS --

-- THINKING THAT TO SAVE HIS OWN LIFE HE WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE.

BUT HE ENDED UP DOING IT NOT FOR HIS OWN SAKE, BUT FOR THE LOVE OF ANOTHER.

SHOWS HOW WELL YOU KNOW HIM.



I DON'T KNOW HIM AT ALL, JACOB... THAT HAS BEEN MY DILEMMA ALL ALONG.

IT IS DAWN ON THE EAST COAST. THE CONTRACT HAS EXPIRED. CONTACT OUR REMAINING OPERATIVE...



"... AND TELL HIM THE TIME HAS COME TO END THIS GAME!"

SORRY, GUYS, BUT THIS IS WHERE THE FEDS TAKE OVER --



-- THIS MAN WAS WORKING ON ASSIGNMENT WITH THE COMMISSION ON SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITY --

AND THE WOMAN?

WAS WHM...

WORKING WITH ME, OFFICER.

EXACTLY.

THEY SHARE A LOOK.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT
REMY'S HISTORY WITH
CARL DENT IS...

... BUT I CAN
TELL IT'S FAR
FROM OVER.

EXHAUSTED (I'M
PRACTICALLY PROPPING
HIM UP UNTIL WE FIND
A CAB), WE RETURN TO
THE THIEVES' SAFEHOUSE.

MAYBE, I SHOULD REPHRASE
IT NOW, AN' JUS' CALL IT
TH' GUILD SAFEHOUSE.

DIS IS
JOYOUS
NEWS!

DE SEERS
FORETOLD OF A
GUILD UNIFICATION
DAT WOULD LEAD TO
DE RESURRECTION
OF THE OLD
KINGDOM!

AT THE
VERY LEAST, WE
WON'T HAVE TO
WATCH OUR
BACKS AS MUCH
ANYMORE!

NO... YOU
WILL HAVE TO
WATCH YOUR
FRONTS.

REMY...
I AM... GLAD
YOU ARE
WELL...

THAT
MIGHT BE STRETCHIN'
IT, ZOE -- LET'S JUS'
SAY I SURVIVED.

EVERYONE
SHOULD GO BACK HOME
NOW -- I GOT SOME X-MEN
BUSINESS T' TAKE
CARE OF --

-- THEN I'LL
FLY DOWN TO
NAWLINS SO WE
CAN FIGURE OUT HOW
THIS UNIFICATION IS
GON' WORK...

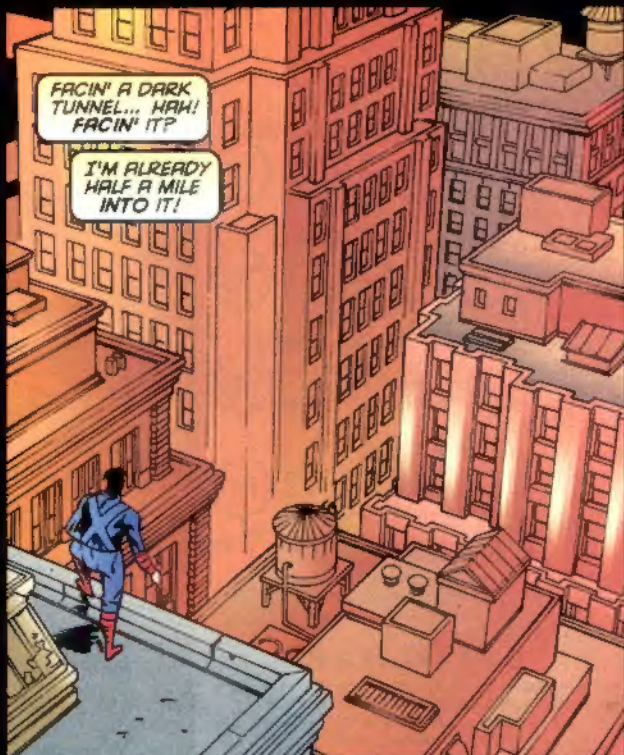


"... NOW THAT
WE ARE FINALLY
TOGETHER...
AGAIN."

FAR AS NIGHTS
GO, THIS WAS AN
INTERESTIN' ONE.

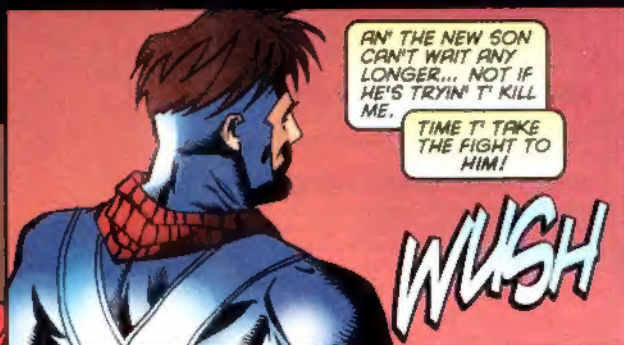
OVERWHELMED.

EXHAUSTED.



FACIN' A DARK
TUNNEL... HAH!
FACIN' IT?

I'M ALREADY
HALF A MILE
INTO IT!



AN' THE NEW SON
CAN'T WAIT ANY
LONGER... NOT IF
HE'S TRYIN' T' KILL
ME.

TIME T' TAKE
THE FIGHT TO
HIM!

WUSH



ANGEL?!

THEN
AGAIN...

TO BE CONCLUDED IN
GAMBIT
ANNUAL 2000!
THE X-MEN
MAKE A MOVE ON THE
CRYSTAL
CATHEDRAL!
A DECISION!
NEW SON'S IDENTITY
IS FINALLY
REVEALED!